



CARDD
MEPA ROUTING MEMO

To: Mark Bostrom
Through: Demi Blythe
From: David Larson

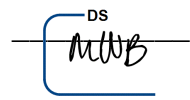
Re: Categorical Exclusion – Final No MEPA Needed Decision
Project Sponsor: Ten Mile Creek/Pleasant Valley Subdivision Water and Sewer District
Name of Project: Ten Mile Creek/Pleasant Valley Wastewater System Improvements
Agreement No: RRG-22-1825

Memo:

DNRC can issue a Categorical Exclusion No MEPA Needed Decision Memo for the Ten Mile Creek/Pleasant Valley Wastewater System Improvements project (attached). The MEPA Coordinator reviewed the DNRC CATEX checklist and found the project to properly classified under the DNRC Categorical Exclusion ARM 36.17.614.

SIGNATURE REQUIRED ON BOTH THE NO MEPA MEMO AND CATEX CHECKLIST

____/s/DEB____ MEPA/NEPA Coordinator Review

A blue ink signature, appearing to be "MWB", is written over a blue line. Above the signature is a small "DS" stamp.

Bureau Chief Review

Division Administrator Signature

_____ Post for _30_ Days on DNRC's Environmental Docs page.

_____ File

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION



GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR

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STATE OF MONTANA

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DECISION MEMO CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Ten Mile Creek/Pleasant Valley Wastewater System Improvements

October 12, 2021

Ten Mile Creek/Pleasant Valley Subdivision Water and Sewer District

46°38'40.2"N 112°00'21.2"W

Lewis and Clark

PURPOSE AND NEED

The Ten Mile Creek Estates/Pleasant Valley (TMPV) Subdivision in Lewis and Clark County were both constructed in the early 1970s. The district serves 310 households with a population of approximately 744 people. The Subdivision is located about 1 mile north of Helena.

The District experiences both infiltration and inflow (I&I) regularly within the wastewater system. The infiltration has been identified to be occurring from the district's manholes. When installed, each manhole was a cast-in-place concrete slab with a cylindrical prefabricated concrete barrel set on the slab with rubber gasket between the surfaces. At an average I&I flow of 5gpm/manhole, the estimated contribution to I&I is in the range of 65,000 gpm for the nine worst manholes. The leaking manholes are 25 feet east of Ten Mile Creek.

This project will remove nine(9) of the worst leaking manholes and replace them with one-piece monolithic concrete manholes. No pipe placement will be done on the project. Construction is scheduled to begin in middle November 2021 and be complete by January 2022.

The project will eliminate raw sewage from entering the groundwater near Ten Mile Creek during low groundwater and during high groundwater will prevent excessive infiltration into the system.

Explanation of the decision(s) that must be made regarding the proposed action (i.e. approve grant or loan and provide funding):

DNRC will approve the grant to provide funding for the TMPV Wastewater System Improvements Project.

DNRC is not required to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for actions that qualify for a CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (ARM 36.17.614) or justified by a PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW; or are ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523(5)); or are EMERGENCIES (ARM 36.2.539). These actions are subject to review for EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES that would require an EA or an EIS.

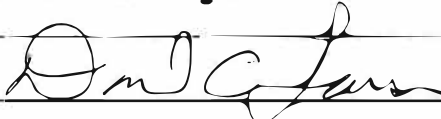
ACTIONS OF SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523)

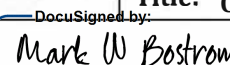
- ☐ Administrative actions: routine, clerical or similar functions of a department, including but not limited to administrative procurement, contracts for consulting services, and personnel actions.
- ☐ Minor repairs, operations, or maintenance of existing equipment or facilities.
- ☐ Investigation and enforcement: data collection, inspection of facilities or enforcement of environmental standards.
- ☐ Ministerial actions: actions in which the agency exercises no discretion, but rather acts upon a given state of facts in a prescribed manner.
- ☐ Actions that are primarily social or economic in nature and that do not otherwise affect the human environment.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION/PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW

- ☒ Categorical Exclusion (CE) refers to a type of action which does not individually, collectively, or cumulatively require an EA or EIS, as determined by rulemaking or programmatic review adopted by the agency, unless extraordinary circumstances, as defined by rulemaking or programmatic review, occur. This project qualifies under ARM 36.17.614 CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.
- ☐ Programmatic review means an analysis (EIS or EA) of the impacts on the quality of the human environment of related actions, programs, or policies. DNRC – CARDD does not have any programmatic reviews completed at the time of this template.

The project listed above meets the definition of Actions of a Special Nature, Categorical Exclusion or Programmatic Review including specified conditions and Extraordinary Circumstances. Included below is a supplemental checklist verifying the use of the Categorical Exclusion.

Prepared By:	Name: 	Date: 10/15/21
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Approved By:	Name: Mark Bostrom
	Title: CARD Division Administrator
Signature: 	Date: 10/15/2021 11:35:25 AM MDT

DocuSigned by:
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DNRC CARDD DOCUMENTATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION CHECKLIST

Project Name: Wastewater Improvements Project

Project Applicant: Ten Mile Creek Estates/Pleasant Valley Sewer District

Brief Description: The District's preferred alternative is to replace manholes in Ten Mile Creek Estates. The first phase will replace at least nine manholes that show the most significant infiltration. The new manhole work would be designed in accordance with DEQ Circular 2, Chapter 30, and per MPW standards. Full replacements of the manholes would correct all noted deficiencies and help protect the groundwater and surface water resources of Tenmile Creek and Prickly Pear Creek.

Agreement Number: RRG-22-1875

Date: 10/11/2021

Preparer: Demitra Blythe – DNRC CARD Division MEPA Coordinator

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation action under 36.17.614, is excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) if the application for department review is for any of the following projects:

(a) Projects relating to existing infrastructure systems such as sewer and septic systems, drinking water supply systems, and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems, dams, culverts, headgates, canal lining, siphons, pipelines, pump sites, lift stations, irrigation infrastructure, that involve:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", an EA or EIS must be completed. If any answer is yes, skip to (b).]

1. Yes - Minor upgrading; or
2. No - Minor expansion of system capacity; or
3. Yes - Rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components; or
4. Yes - Construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities; or
5. No - Projects in unsewered communities involving the replacement of existing on- site systems, provided that the new on-site systems do not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharges or in loadings of pollutants from existing sources, and do not relocate existing discharges; or
6. No - Use of sampling and monitoring wells to test for the presence of contaminants such as, but not limited to, metals and petroleum; or
7. No - Activities that do not involve or lead directly to construction, such as planning studies, scientific research and analysis, surveys, or engineering.

(b) A categorical exclusion may NOT be granted for a department action if:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", skip to (c). If any answer is yes, an EA or EIS must be completed.]

1. No - The action would authorize facilities that will provide a new discharge or relocate an existing discharge to ground or surface waters;

2. No - The action would result in an increase above permit levels established for the facility under the Montana pollutant discharge elimination system or Montana ground water pollution control system for either volume of discharge or loading rate of pollutants to receiving waters;
3. No - The action would authorize facilities that will provide capacity to serve a population at least 30% greater than the existing population;
4. No - The action is not supported by the state, or other regional growth plan or strategy;
5. No - The action directly or indirectly involves or relates to upgrading or extending infrastructure systems primarily for the purposes of future development;
6. No - The department has received information indicating that public controversy exists over the project's potential effects on the quality of the human environment;
7. No - The department determines that the proposed project that is the subject of the state action shows some potential for causing a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, based on ARM 36.2.524, or might possibly affect:

- (i) sensitive environmental or cultural resource areas; or
- (ii) endangered or threatened species and their critical habitats.

(c) If the proposed project meets the conditions above in determining use of a CATEX, the reviewer will then complete items below as follows:

[Once all steps are complete, reviewer shall sign and date at bottom. If revocation becomes necessary, reviewer shall initiate an EA or EIS as appropriate.]

1. Yes - Project meets the above Categorical Exclusion criteria.
2. Yes - DNRC determination of Categorical Exclusion.
3. Yes - DNRC distributes the Notice of Determination.
4. NA - Notice of Publication and cover letter (containing revocation language below) is delivered to recipient.
5. NA - Notice of Publication published in local newspaper by recipient and evidence of publication provided to reviewer.

(d) The department may revoke a categorical exclusion if:

[Only complete the steps below if revocation of a previously implemented CATEX becomes necessary.]

1. Choose an item. - The project is not initiated within the time period specified in the facility plan, or a new or modified application is submitted;
2. Choose an item. - The proposed action no longer meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion because of changes in the proposed action;
3. Choose an item. - New evidence demonstrates that serious local or environmental issues exist; or

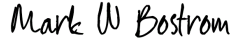
4. Choose an item. - State, local, tribal, or federal laws may be violated.

Demitra Blythe – MEPA Coordinator



DNRC CARD Division STATE PREPARER

DocuSigned by:



Mark Bostrom – Division Administrator

DNRC CARD Division STATE REVIEWER

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10/11/2021

COMPLETION DATE

